



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 0313-0002.01 (KAP 101DIV)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)
Aaron V. Kaplan, M.D., et al.)
Serial No.: 10/002,329)
Filed: November 1, 2001)
Group Art No.: 3763)
Examiner: M. Mendez)
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR)
PERICARDIAL ACCESS)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to the reference listed on the attached form, which reference may be material to the examination of this application. It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. A copy of this reference is enclosed.

No inference should be drawn that the subject matter disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.


Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted with a Request from Continued Examination along with the required RCE fee. Accordingly, it is believed that no additional fee is required for the submission of this Information Disclosure

Statement. However, should an additional fee be required, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account 50-1039.

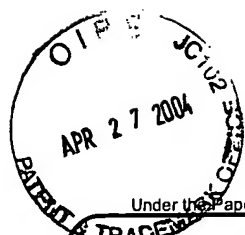
Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 27, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/002,329
Filing Date	November 1, 2001
First Named Inventor	Aaron V. Kaplan
Art Unit	3763
Examiner Name	M. Mendez
Attorney Docket Number	0313-0002.01 (KAP 101DIV)

Sheet	1	of	1
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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